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UR OPINION

Cuban Lesson Still Unlearned

Richard M. Nixon has written an article for a national magazine in which he attacks with earnestness born of experience an alarming drift in American foreign affairs.

His subject is Cuba. It is close to Nixon's heart, for it provided John F. Kennedy with campaign ammunition in 1960 that may well have swung many votes his way.

Since the former vice-president left office, Cuba has pre-occupied us, and given us the greatest eyeball-to-eyeball threat to our national honor and survival ever faced.

Nixon speaks of Castro's abrupt change to communism shortly after the dictator assumed power. He says that although State Department career officers and CIA officials warned that Castro was a Communist, liberal advisors to the late president were too convincing. Castro was left alone to build a Communist state.

Summoned to the White House after the Bay of Pigs disgrace, Nixon pictures President Kennedy as furious toward the advisors, who again had held sway and convinced the chief-of-state that "unfavorable world opinion" would accrue to the United States if air support were given those dying on the beach.

Kennedy called the facing of fathers of men who died because the liberals thought more of world opinion than success the worst moment of his life.

Kennedy is gone, and the lessons he learned and put to use in the missile crisis have fallen on deaf liberal ears in Washington. Nixon advocates a hard foreign policy. But his view seems in the minority.

The Fulbrights speak of Cuba as a grim but docile reality.

But they forget that reality in world affairs is what men make, not what is ordained.

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". . . on this earth, God's work must truly be our own."